

COMPREHENSION CHALLENGES

The white sands of the beach stretched in a gracious curve. It disappeared into the horizon where land, sea, and clouds combined in a peaceful union.

We had traveled from Baguio, a city of pines, mountains, and clouds, to spend the day on this beautiful, lush, tropical beach. Palm trees, heavy with coconuts, gave shelter to the thatched huts scattered along the length of the beach. Here and there children played among the beached outrigger canoes. The row of canoes waited for the fishermen to push them into the fish-laden gulf.

In a secluded spot we quickly changed into our borrowed swim suits. Mine was too big. A safety pin cinched in the waist. I ran toward the gently breaking waves, made a quick dive, and was soon immersed in the sun-warmed waters of the Ligayen Gulf. It felt wonderful! I must try it again--another quick run, a dive into a rolling wave.

Snap! Swish! The safety pin! My suit! It was nowhere to be found. A large towel was thrown to me as I huddled in the water. Wrapped in the towel, I retreated from the water. What a disappointment that such a fun day was brought to an embarrassing end!



1. This story is about:
 - (a) the beach
 - (b) swimming fun
 - (c) an embarrassing moment
 - (d) Ligayen Gulf
2. On the beach children played among:
 - (a) canoes
 - (b) palm trees
 - (c) huts
 - (d) fish
3. The waters of the Ligayen Gulf were:
 - (a) cold
 - (b) hot
 - (c) cool
 - (d) warm
4. He retreated from the water wrapped in a:
 - (a) bathing suit
 - (b) coat
 - (c) towel
 - (d) sheet
5. After arriving at the beach, they:
 - (a) rested on the sand
 - (b) rented canoes
 - (c) fished in the gulf
 - (d) changed into swim suits
6. In this story cinched means:
 - (a) a certainty
 - (b) pulled in to make tight
 - (c) buttoned
 - (d) sewed
7. What happened to the safety pin in the water?
 - (a) nothing
 - (b) it snapped closed
 - (c) it snapped open
 - (d) it pricked him
8. From the facts in this story, you would say the Ligayen Gulf is located:
 - (a) up north around Canada
 - (b) off the coast of Norway
 - (c) around the equator
 - (d) near Alaska